

REMARKS

The office action has been carefully considered and amendments have been made in an effort to place the application in condition for immediate allowance. It is noted that the examiner has recognized claims 5-14 to contain allowable subject matter and amendments have been made to incorporate the allowable subject matter into independent claims and to incorporate the subject matter of claim 1 into other claims to make them independent. More particularly, the subject matter of claim 5 has been added to claims 1, 16 and 17. Claim 7 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 1 to make claim 7 an independent claim. Similarly, the subject matter of claim 1 has been added to claim 14 to make that claim an independent claim.

The examiner has objected to claim 17 for the stated reason that it is an apparatus rather than a system. Applicants respectfully traverse this objection. Claim 17 is rightly defined as a system in that it includes at least one transmitter, at least one receiver and at least one high speed link having a plurality of virtual channels. There is no legitimate reason why this cannot be characterized as a system and applicants do not wish to make this proposed change.

The examiner also objected to claim 17 because of the use of the phrase "adapted to". Applicants also respectfully traverse this objection. There are thousands of patents that use the term "adapted to" including dozens prosecuted successfully by the undersigned. The case cited by the examiner *In re Hutchison* is a 1946 CCPA decision which the undersigned believes can be read to stand for the proposition that functional operations have no patentable weight. That notion has been dispelled at least as early as the enactment of the Patent Act of 1952 which added the means-plus-function claiming capability of § 112, paragraph 6.

The dependent claims presently appearing in the application necessarily include the features of the independent claims and other claims from which they

depend and are also believed to be allowable at least for that reason. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested. If any questions remain, the undersigned requests that the examiner call to attempt to resolve them.

Respectfully submitted,

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